

BOOK REVIEWS

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried in the Advertising Section.

CHEST INJURIES—Physiologic Principles and Emergency Management—Emil A. Naclerio, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.P., F.A.C.C., Attending Thoracic Surgeon, Department of Surgery, Harlem Hospital Center, College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University; Attending Thoracic Surgeon, Columbus Hospital, New York, New York. Grune & Stratton, Inc., 757 Third Avenue, New York City (10017), 1971. 383 pages, \$28.50.

Chest Injuries—Physiological Principles in Emergency Management is a compilation of the author's own experiences in emergency medicine, methods of treatment and approaches toward patient care with traumatic thoracic problems. The book is somewhat tedious because of its loose organization, casual relationship of one subject to another, and tendency toward repetition. There are many clinical "pearls" the author includes in his book which enhance its usefulness. However, the absence of an annotated bibliography, inclusion of confusing metaphors and lack of indepth refinement in up-to-date treatment of certain major problems reduce the value of the book. Many of the techniques the author describes are presented in a lucid and interesting form. However, there is inappropriate introduction of x-rays and supporting diagrams without sufficient description to make them complimentary to the accompanying text. There is no question that the author's experience pervades the entire book. Upon this alone, the book is worthy of perusal. Based upon the other factors noted above and its cost, I doubt that it will become universally accepted as a basic text in the care of traumatic chest injuries.

EDWARD J. HURLEY, M.D.

HANDBOOK OF POISONING—Diagnosis and Treatment—Seventh Edition—Robert H. Dreisbach, M.D., Ph.D., Professor (Emeritus) of Pharmacology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, California. Lange Medical Publications, Drawer L, Los Altos, Ca. (94022), 1971. 515 pages, \$6.00.

This is the 7th Edition of this popular book on poisoning by Dr. Dreisbach, Professor (Emeritus) of Stanford University. It is expanded and the tabulation of material is of considerable help to the physician who must make up his mind concerning the great variety of agents which can cause acute poisoning in children. There has been an attempt to include general statements on environmental intoxication and this in itself does not improve the contents of the book. There are especially good sections on treatment of intoxications from poisonous plants and animals. Unfortunately, there are included a number of agents which are only of passing curiosity and are never encountered in clinical toxicology. The text does suffer somewhat also from the obvious lack of clinical experience of the author. Most texts on the treatment of poisoning are written by pharmacologists and basic scientists who are not in practice. Nevertheless, this book has much to recommend it and its convenient size makes it a handy addition to physicians' emergency equipment. There are short and well chosen bibliographic references.

Recommended for general practitioners and pediatricians.

CHARLES H. HINE, M.D.

KIDNEY AND URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS—Edited by Mitchell Kory, Ph.D., and S. O. Waife, M.D., Eli Lilly and Company, Indianapolis, In. (46206), 1971. 136 pages, available at no charge to interested medical students, house officers, and practicing clinicians.

The Lilly Research Laboratories with the aid of a number of prominent well-qualified nephrologists have published an attractive primer relating to the kidney and urinary tract infections. Much practical information is provided concerning etiology, techniques of laboratory diagnosis (including paracentesis of the urinary bladder and x-ray of the urinary tract), principles of antimicrobial therapy, structure and function of the kidney and management of renal failure, all of which is of potential value to all interested in urinary tract infections; that is to say, most medical students and physicians since urinary tract infections next to respiratory are among the most frequent.

Criticism that can be made of this primer is that like all primers, in the interest of brevity, not all sides of questions can be thoroughly enough covered. However, references are provided for further reading. This book is highly recommended by this reader.

JAMES HOPPER, JR., M.D.

BASIC BIOCHEMISTRY—Third Edition—Max E. Rafelson, Jr., Ph.D., Associate Dean, Biological and Behavioral Sciences and Services, and Professor of Biochemistry, Rush Medical College, Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center, Chicago; Stephen B. Binkley, Ph.D., Dean, Graduate College, and Professor Biological Chemistry, University of Illinois Medical Center, Chicago; and James A. Hayashi, Ph.D., Professor Biochemistry, Rush Medical College. The Macmillan Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10022), 1971. 406 pages, \$7.95, paperback, and \$11.00, hardbound.

In a good book for a comprehensive initial biochemistry course, Rafelson, Binkley and Hayashi have stressed the structure of biomolecules and the details of a wide range of metabolic pathways. Details are given, for example, of the structure of four different porphyrin molecules and of the biosynthesis of all of the amino acids. The reader is presented the difference between lysine biosynthesis in fungi and bacteria. The book would be most suitable for students with a strong interest in chemistry. For students in biological fields a course presented with this book as a guideline would be more stimulating if given simultaneously with a cell biology course. Teachers of basic biochemistry courses should give this book serious consideration. As a paperback at \$7.95 this is a good buy.

DONAL A. WALSH, PH.D.

SYMPOSIUM ON THE HAND—Volume Three—Editors: Lester M. Cramer, D.M.D., M.D., Professor and Chairman, Section of Plastic Surgery, Temple University Health Sciences Center, Philadelphia; Robert A. Chase, M.D., Professor and Executive, Department of Surgery, Stanford University Medical Center, Palo Alto. The C. V. Mosby Company, Publishers, 11830 Westline Industrial Drive, St. Louis, Mo. (63141), 1971. 287 pages, \$35.75.

This volume represents part of an ongoing series in the field of hand surgery and is a compilation of the material presented at a 3-day symposium held at Stanford University in 1970.

There are 23 papers covering a wide variety of currently controversial subjects presented by 26 leading hand sur-